

dissemination and entertainment system in trains through open tender.

- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Doesn't arise.

Rail coach factory at Palakkad

820. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the present status of railway coach factory construction at Palakkad;
- (b) what is the provision for this project for this year;
- (c) how long it would take to start production; and
- (d) how many people are employed presently to start the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) In the Budget speech of 2008-09, Hon'ble MR announced the setting up of a new Rail Coach Factory at Palghat Kerala to take care of the increasing requirement of Passenger coaches in the country. Government of Kerala has promised to make 1000 acres of land available, free of cost, for this project. Railway Board commissioned RITES for finalizing the Detailed project Report (DPR). Land earmarked by the State Government has already been inspected by RITES officials. A DPR, bringing out the product mix, investments required and other related details were submitted by M/s. RITES. It has been scrutinized in the Ministry of Railways and requisite approval are being taken.

The abstract cost of the project is estimated to be Rs. 1215.76 crores.

- (b) No budget provision is required at this stage.
- (c) and (d) It is not feasible to furnish these details at this stage.

Coach manufacturing units in Uttar Pradesh

821. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways has plan to construct a coach manufacturing unit in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including investment cost, capacity of the plant and tentative completion date of the project;
- (c) whether Railways is proposing to coach manufacturing unit of M/s. Jessop in West Bengal which would involve comparatively much less investment *vis-a-vis* a green field coach factory in Uttar Pradesh; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir at Rai Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh. The estimated cost of the Project is Rs. 1685 crore and annual manufacturing capacity is 1000 coaches. The Project will be completed expeditiously.

(c) and (d) M/s Jessop is a privately owned company which is currently engaged in manufacturing EMU coaches and wagons for Indian Railways.

Annual Direct Recruitment Plan

822. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Annual Direct Recruitment Plan (ADRP) has been withdrawn;

(b) if so, whether action has been taken to fill up the vacancies in various departments of Railways; and

(c) the existing vacancies in various departments, category-wise and the present status of recruitment to fill the posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension have not extended the validity of Annual Direct Recruitment Plan (ADRP) beyond 31.3.2009.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The vacancies in various departments, (categories-wise) as on 01.04.2009 is as under:

Category	Vacancies
A and B	1549
C	133732
D	44743

Any large organization like the Railway will have vacancies at any point of time. Arising and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process. Vacancies arise due to normal retirement, voluntary retirements, deaths, promotions etc. and vacancies are filled in primarily through UPSC, open market recruitment, promotions and compassionate ground appointments, through Railway Recruitment Boards or by the Zonal Railways themselves.

Alternate rail route between North and South

823. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the plan of Railways to develop an alternate rail route between North and South by using the Raipur - Visakhapatnam track;

(b) the details of any such plans to improve the track between Raipur - Visakhapatnam;